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Of words they seldom know more than the grammatical construction, unless they are born with a poetical genius, which is a rare *portion* amongst them. *Dryden.*
As soon as any good appears to make a part of their *portion* of happiness, they begin to desire it. *Locke.*
When he considers the manifold temptations of poverty and riches, and how fatally it will affect his happiness to be overcome by them, he will join with Agur in petitioning God for the safer *portion* of a moderate convenience. *Rogers.*
One or two faults are easily to be remedied with a very small *portion* of abilities. *Swift.*
3. Part of an inheritance given to a child; a fortune. Leave to thy children tumult, strife and war, *Prior.*
Portions of toil, and legacies of care.
4. A wife's fortune. *Prior.*
To *PORTION*. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To divide; to parcel.
The gods who *portion* out
The lots of princes as of private men,
Have put a bar between his hopes and empire. *Rowe.*
Argos the feat of sovereign rule I chose,
Where my Ulysses and his race might reign,
And *portion* to his tribes the wide domain.
2. To endow with a fortune.
Him *portion'd* maids, apprentic'd orphans blest,
The young who labour, and the old who rest. *Pope.*
To *PORTIONER*. *n. f.* [from *portion*.] One that divides.
To *PORTLINESS*. *n. f.* [from *portly*.] Dignity of mien; grandeur of demeanour.
Such pride is praise, such *portliness* is honour,
That boldness innocence bears in her eyes;
And her fair countenance like a goodly banner
Spreads in defiance of all enemies. *Spenser.*
When subtilties combineth with delightfulness, ful-
ness with fineness, fecundities with *portliness*, and curtness
with staydness, how can the language found other than most
full of sweetness? *Camden's Remains.*
To *PORTLY*. *adj.* [from *port*.]
1. Grand of mien.
Rudely thou wrong'st my dear heart's desire,
In finding fault with her too *portly* pride. *Spenser.*
Your Argosies with *portly* fail,
Like signiors and rich burghers on the flood,
Or as it were the pageants of the sea,
Do overpeer the petty traffickers. *Shakespeare.*
A *portly* prince, and goodly to the fight,
He seem'd a son of Anak for his height. *Dryden.*
2. Bulky; swelling.
A goodly, *portly* man and a corpulent; of a cheerful look,
A pleasing eye, and a most noble carriage. *Shakespeare.*
Our house little deserves
The fource of greatness to be used on it;
And that same greatness too, which our own hands
Have help'd to make so *portly*. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
To *PORTMAN*. *n. f.* [from *port* and *man*.] An inhabitant or burgess,
as those of the cinque ports. *Dict.*
To *PORTMANTEAU*. *n. f.* [from *portemanteau*, Fr.] A chest or bag in
which cloaths are carried.
I desired him to carry one of my *portmanteaus*; but he
laughed, and bid another do it. *Spenser.*
To *PORTOISE*. *n. f.* In sea language, a ship is said to ride a *por-
toise*, when the rides with her yards struck down to the
deck. *Dict.*
To *PORTRAIT*. *n. f.* [from *portrait*, Fr.] A picture drawn after the
life.
As this idea of perfection is of little use in *portraits*, or the
resemblances of particular persons, so neither is it in the char-
acters of comedy and tragedy, which are always to be drawn
with some specks of frailty, such as they have been described
in history. *Dryden's Duffresney.*
The figure of his body was strong, proportionable, beau-
tiful, and were his picture well drawn, it must deserve the
praise given to the *portraits* of Raphael. *Prior.*
To *PORTRAIT*. *v. a.* [from *portrait*, Fr. from the noun.] To
draw; to portray. It is perhaps ill copied, and should be
written in the following examples *portray*.
In most exquisite pictures, they blaze and *portrait* not only
the dainty lineaments or beauty, but also round about shadow
the rude thickets and craggy cliffs. *Spenser.*
I *portrait* in Arthur before he was king, the image of a
brave knight, perfected in the twelve private moral virtues. *Spenser.*
To *PORTRAITURE*. *n. f.* [from *portraiture*, Fr. from *portray*.] Picture;
painted resemblance.
By the image of my cause I see
The *portraiture* of his. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*
Let some strange mysterious dream,
Wave at his wings in airy stream,
Of lively *portraiture* display'd,
Softly on my eye-lids laid.
Herein was also the *portraiture* of a hart. *Milton.*
Brown.

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This is the *portraiture* of our earth, drawn without
flattery. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*
Her wry-mouth'd *portraiture*
Display'd the fates her confessions endure. *Pope.*
He delineates and gives us the *portraiture* of a perfect
orator. *Baker's Reflections on Learning.*
To *PORTRAY*. *v. a.* [from *portraiture*, Fr.]
1. To paint; to describe by picture.
The Earl of Warwick's ragged staff is yet to be seen *por-
trayed* in many places of their church steeple. *Carew.*
Take a tile, and to *portray* upon it the city Jerusalem. *Es.*
Our Phenix queen was *portrayed* too bright,
Beauty alone could beauty take to right. *Dryden.*
2. To adorn with pictures.
Shields
Various, with boastful argument *portray'd*. *Milton.*
To *PORTRESS*. *n. f.* [from *porter*.] A female guardian of a gate.
Janitrix.
The *portress* of hell-gate reply'd. *Milton's Par. Lost.*
The shoes put on, our faithful *portress*
Admits us in to storm the fortrefs;
While like a cat with walnuts thod,
Stumbling at every step the trod. *Swift's Misc.*
To *POWIGLE*. *n. f.* A tadpole or young frog not yet fully shaped.
That black and round substance began to grow oval, after
a while the head, the eyes, the tail to be discernible, and at
last to become that which the ancients called *gyrinus*, we a
powigle or tadpole. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
To *PORE*. *adj.* [from *porous*, Fr. from *porus*.] Full of pores.
To the court arriv'd th' admiring son
Beholds the vaulted roofs of *porous* stone. *Dryden.*
To *POSE*. *v. a.* [from *pose*, an old word signifying heaviness
or stupefaction. *Spenser. Skinner.*]
1. To puzzle; to gravel; to put to a stand or stop.
Learning was *pos'd*, philosophy was set,
Sophisters taken in a fether's net
How God's eternal son should be man's brother.
Herbert.
Posest his proudlest intellectual power. *Crofton.*
As an evidence of human infirmities, I shall give the fol-
lowing instances of our intellectual blindness, not that I de-
sign to *pose* them with those common enigmas of magnetism.
Glansville's Shop.
Particularly in learning of languages, there is least occasion
for *posing* of children. *Locke on Education.*
2. To appose; to interrogate.
She in the presence of others *pos'd* him and sifted him,
thereby to try whether he were indeed the very duke of York
or no. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
To *POSER*. *n. f.* [from *pose*.] One that asketh questions to try
capacities; an examiner.
He that questioneth much, shall learn much; but let his
questions not be troublesome, for that is fit for a *poser*. *Bacon.*
To *POSITED*. *adj.* [from *positus*, Lat.] It has the appearance of a partici-
ple, but it has no verb. Placed; ranged.
That the principle that sets on work these organs is nothing
else but the modification of matter, or the natural motion
thereof thus, or thus *posited* or disposed, is most apparently
false. *Hale's Origin of Mansind.*
To *POSITION*. *n. f.* [from *position*, Fr. *positio*, Latin.]
1. State of being placed; situation.
Iron having stood long in a window, being thence taken,
and by the help of a cork balanced in water, where it may
have a free mobility, will bewray a kind of iniquitude till it
attain the former *position*. *Watts.*
They are the happiest regions for fruits, by the excellence
of soil, the *position* of mountains, and the frequency of
streams. *Temple.*
Since no one sees all, and we have different prospects of
the same thing, according to our different *positions* to it, it is
not incongruous to try whether another may not have notions
that escaped him. *Locke.*
By varying the *position* of my eye, and moving it nearer to
or farther from the direct beam of the sun's light, the colour
of the sun's reflected light constantly varied upon the speculum
as it did upon my eye. *Newton's Opticks.*
We have a different prospect of the same thing, according
to the different *position* of our understandings toward it. *Watts.*
Place ourselves in such a *position* toward the object, or place
the object in such a *position* toward our eye, as may give us
the clearest representation of it; for a different *position* greatly
alters the appearance of bodies. *Watts's Logic.*
2. Principle laid down.
Of any offence or sin therein committed against God, with
what conscience can ye accuse us, when your own *positions*
are, that the things we observe should every one of them be
dearer unto us than ten thousand lives. *Hosker.*
Let not the proof of any *positions* depend on the *position* of
that follow, but always on those which go before. *Watts.*
3. Advancement of any principle.
A fallacious ilation is to conclude from the *position* of the
antecedent unto the *position* of the consequent, or the remo-
tion of the consequent to the remotion of the antecedent. *Br.*
4. [In

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4. [In grammar.] The state of a vowel placed before two
consonants, as *pimpous*; or a double consonant, as *fole*.
To *POSITIONAL*. *adj.* [from *position*.] Respecting position.
The leaves of catapulta or sponge plucked upwards or
downwards, performing their operations by-purge or vomit;
as old wives still do preach, is a strange conceit, ascribing unto
plants *positional* operations. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
To *POSITIVE*. *adj.* [from *positivus*, Lat. *positivus*, Fr.]
1. Not negative; capable of being affirmed; real; absolute.
The power or blossom is a *positive* good, although the re-
move of it, to give place to the fruit, be a comparative
good. *Bacon.*
Hardness carries somewhat more of *positive* in it than im-
penetrability, which is negative; and is perhaps more a con-
sequence of solidity, than solidity itself. *Locke.*
Whatever doth or can exist, or be considered as one
thing, is *positive*; and do not only simple ideas and substances,
but modes also are *positive* beings, though the parts, of which
they consist, are very often relative one to another. *Locke.*
2. Absolute; particular; direct; not implied.
As for *positive* words, that he would not bear arms against
king Edward's son; though the words seem calm, yet it was a
plain and direct over-ruling of the king's title. *Bacon.*
3. Dogmatically; ready to lay down notions with confidence;
stubborn in opinion.
I am sometimes doubting, when I might be *positive*, and
sometimes confident out of season. *Rymer.*
Some *positive* peritising fops we know,
That, if once wrong, will needs be always so;
But you, with pleasure own your errors past,
And make each day a critic on the last. *Pope.*
4. Settled by arbitrary appointment.
In laws, that which is natural, bindeth universally, that
which is *positive*, not so. *Hosker.*
Although no laws but *positive* be mutable, yet all are not
mutable which be *positive*; *positive* laws are either permanent
or else changeable, according as the matter itself is, concern-
ing which they were made. *Hosker.*
Laws are but *positive*; love's pow'r we see,
Is nature's sanction, and her first decree. *Dryden.*
5. Having the power to enact any law.
Not to consent to the enacting of such a law, which has
no view besides the general good, unless another law shall
at the same time pass, with no other view but that of ad-
vancing the power of one party alone; what is this but to
claim a *positive* voice, as well as a negative. *Swift.*
6. Certain; assured.
To *POSITIVELY*. *adv.* [from *positive*.]
1. Absolutely; by way of direct position.
Give me some breath, some little pause,
Before I *positively* speak in this. *Shakespeare. Rich. III.*
The good or evil, which is removed, may be esteemed
good or evil comparatively, and not *positively* or simply. *Bacon.*
2. Not negatively.
It is impossible that any successive duration should be ac-
tually and *positively* infinite, or have infinite successions already
gone and past. *Bentley's Sermons.*
3. Certainly; without dubitation.
It was absolutely certain, that this part was *positively* yours,
and could not possibly be written by any other. *Dryden.*
4. Peremptorily; in strong terms.
I would ask any man, that has but once read the bible,
whether the whole tenor of the divine law does not *positively*
require humility and meekness to all men. *Sprat.*
To *POSITIVENESS*. *n. f.* [from *positive*.]
1. Actuality; not mere negation.
The *positiveness* of sins of commission lies both in the habi-
tude of the will and in the executed act too; whereas the *posi-
tiveness* of sins of omission is in the habitude of the will
only. *Norris.*
2. Peremptoriness; confidence.
This peremptoriness is of two sorts; the one a magisterial-
ness in matters of opinion and speculation, the other a *posi-
tiveness* in relating matters of fact; in the one we impose
upon men's understandings, in the other on their faith.
Government of the Tongue.
To *POSITIVITY*. *n. f.* [from *positive*.] Peremptoriness; confi-
dence. A low word.
Courage and *positivity* are never more necessary than on
such an occasion; but it is good to join some argument with
them of real and convincing force, and let it be strongly pro-
nounced too. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
To *POSITURE*. *n. f.* [from *positura*, Lat.] The manner in which any
thing is placed.
Supposing the *positure* of the party's hand who did throw
the dice, and supposing all other things, which did concur to
the production of that cast, to be the very same they were,
there is no doubt but in this case the cast is necessary. *Bramb.*
To *POSNET*. *n. f.* [from *posnet*, Fr. *Skinner*.] A little basin;
a porringer; a skillet.
To make proof of the incorporation of silver and tin in
equal quantity, and also whether it yield no foibles more
than silver; and again whether it will endure the ordinary

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fire, which belongeth to chaffing-dishes, *posnets* and such
other silver vessels. *Bacon.*
To *POSSE*. *n. f.* [Latin.] An armed power; from *posse* comi-
tatus, the power of the shires. A low word.
The *posse* comitatus, the power of the whole county, is
legally committed unto him. *Bacon.*
As if the passion that rules, were the sheriff of the place,
and came with all the *posse*, the understanding is seized. *Locke.*
To *POSSESS*. *v. a.* [from *possessus*, Lat. *possider*, Fr.]
1. To have as an owner; to be master of; to enjoy or occupy
actually.
She will not let instructions enter
Where folly now *possesses*. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*
Record a gift.
Here in the court, of all he dies *possess'd*.
Unto his son. *Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.*
Sundry more gentlemen this little hundred *possesseth* and
possessioneth. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*
2. To seize; to obtain.
The English marched towards the river Esk, intending to
possess a hill called Under-Eske. *Hayward.*
3. To give possession or command of any thing; to make
master of. It has of before that which is possessed; some-
times anciently with.
Is he yet *possess'd*?
How much you would?
—Ay, ay, three thousand ducats. *Shakespeare.*
This man, whom hand to hand I flew in fight,
May be *possessed* with some store of crowns. *Shakespeare.*
This *possession* us of the most valuable blessing of human
life, friendship. *Government of the Tongue.*
Seem I to thee sufficiently *possess'd*?
Of happiness or not, who am alone
From all eternity?
I hope to *possess* chymists and corpucularians of the ad-
vantages to each party, by confederacy between them. *Boyle.*
The intent of this fable is to *possess* us of a just sense of
the vanity of these craving appetites. *L'Estrange.*
Whole houses, of their whole desires *possess'd*,
Are often ruin'd at their own request. *Dryden.*
Of fortune's favour long *possess'd*.
He was with one fair daughter only blest. *Dryden.*
We *possessed* ourselves of the kingdom of Naples, the duchy
of Milan and the avenue of France in Italy. *Addison.*
Endowed with the greatest perfections of nature, and
possessed of all the advantages of external condition, Solomon
could not find happiness. *Prior.*
4. To fill with something fixed.
It is of unspeakable advantage to *possess* our minds with an
habitual good intention, and to aim all our thoughts, words
and actions at some laudable end. *Addison.*
Those, under the great officers, know every little case that
is before the great man, and if they are *possessed* with honest
minds, will consider poverty as a recommendation. *Addison.*
5. To have power over, as an unclean spirit.
Beware what spirit rages in your breast;
For ten inspir'd, ten thousand are *possess'd*. *Recommon.*
Inspir'd within, and yet *possess'd* without. *Cleveland.*
I think, that the man is *possessed*. *Swift.*
6. To affect by intestine power.
He's *possess'd* with greatness,
And speaks not to himself, but with a pride
That quarrels at self-breath. *Shakespeare. Troil. and Cress.*
Let not your ears despite my tongue,
Which shall *possess* them with the heaviest sound
That ever yet they heard. *Shakespeare.*
Possess'd with rumours full of idle dreams,
Not knowing what they fear, but full of fear. *Shakespeare.*
What fury, O son,
Possess thee, to bend that mortal dart
Against thy father's head?
With the rage of all their race *possess'd*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ii.*
Stung to the soul the brothers start from rest. *Pope.*
To *POSSESSION*. *n. f.* [from *possession*, Fr. *possessione*, Lat.]
1. The state of owning or having in one's own hands or power;
property.
He shall inherit her, and his generation shall hold her in
possession. *Ecclus. iv. 16.*
In *possession* such, not only of right,
I call you. *Milton.*
2. The thing possessed.
Do nothing to lose the best *possession* of life, that of honour
and truth. *Temple.*
A man has no right over another's life, by his having a
property in land and *possessions*. *Locke.*
To *POSSESSOR*. *v. a.* To invest with property. Obsolete.
Sundry more gentlemen this little hundred *possesseth* and
possessioneth. *Carew.*
To *POSSESSOR*. *n. f.* [from *possession*.] Master; one that has
the power or property of any thing.
They were people, whom having been of old freemen and
possessioners, the Lacedemonians had conquered. *Sidney.*
20 C *POSSESSIVE.*